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Contact: Kevin Kerstein
Publicity Manager
Churchill Downs Racetrack
(610) 420-6971 (mobile)
(502) 635-4712 (office)
Kevin.Kerstein@KyDerby.com

LOUISIANA DERBY RUNNER-UP ZOZOS TUNES UP FOR KENTUCKY DERBY

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Friday, April 8, 2022) – **Barry** and **Joni Butzow's Zozos** returned to the work tab for the first time since his runner-up effort behind **Epicenter** in the \$1 million TwinSpires.com Louisiana Derby (Grade II) on March 26 with an easy half-mile move in :48 early Friday morning at Churchill Downs.

With exercise rider **Kelvin Perez** in the saddle, Zozos began his 5:30 a.m. workout in a rather leisurely opening quarter-mile of :25. Zozos increased his speed to the wire and completed the final quarter in :23 and galloped out five furlongs in 1:00.80, according to Churchill Downs clocker **John Nichols**.

"It was a good first work back after the Louisiana Derby," trainer **Brad Cox** said. "He came out of the race in great shape and I think got a lot out of finishing second. He really finished up well in today's work."

Named after a restaurant in the Virgin Islands, Zozos broke his maiden in January at Fair Grounds and returned against first-level allowance competition for an emphatic 10 ¼-length score. The son of Munnings finished 2 ½ lengths back of Epicenter in the Louisiana Derby after getting pressured for much of the early pace.

Zozos is one of three Kentucky Derby contenders for Cox. He's also scheduled to run **Gold Square's** \$1.25 million Arkansas Derby (GI) winner **Cyberknife** and **Peachtree Stable's** \$600,000 Jeff Ruby Steaks (GIII) runner-up **Tawny Port**.

All three of Cox's Derby contenders are stabled in Barn 22 at Churchill Downs.

DOWN THE STRETCH – **Teruya Yoshida's** \$1 million UAE Derby (GII) winner **Crown Pride (JPN)** jogged in the one-mile chute before galloping 1 ½ miles Friday at Churchill Downs with exercise rider **Masafumi Matsuda** in the saddle. He'll remain stabled in Churchill Downs' quarantine facility through the Kentucky Derby. ... Louisiana Derby winner **Epicenter** galloped about 1 ½ miles at 6:15 a.m. with exercise rider **Roberto Howell** aboard. The Not This Time colt is scheduled to work Sunday. ... \$1 million Blue Grass (GI) contenders **Smile Happy** and **Rattle N Roll** returned to Churchill Downs on Wednesday and are stabled in **Kenny McPeck's** Barn 6. ... "**Inside Churchill Downs**" will begin its eighth season on **ESPN Louisville's ESPN 680/105.7** on Friday at 6 p.m. Those outside the Louisville radio market can listen live online at www.espnloouisville.com or via podcast on the station's website.

ABOUT CHURCHILL DOWNS RACETRACK

Churchill Downs Racetrack ("CDRT"), the world's most legendary racetrack, has been the home of The Kentucky Derby, the longest continually held annual sporting event in the United States, since 1875. Located in Louisville, CDRT features a series of themed race days during Derby Week, including the Kentucky Oaks, and conducts Thoroughbred horse racing during three race meets in the Spring, September, and the Fall. CDRT is located on 175 acres and has a one-mile dirt track, a 7/8-mile turf track, a stabling area, and provides seating for approximately 60,000 guests. The saddling paddock and the stable area has barns sufficient to accommodate 1,400 horses and a 114-room dormitory for backstretch personnel. CDRT also has a year-round simulcast wagering facility. www.ChurchillDowns.com.

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